



A Southeastern Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Wood Turners



## From the President



The proposal to have members design a logo for our club was briefly discussed at the February meeting. Lyle Solem initiated the idea of a logo design contest and it is worth your serious consideration:

1. Design a logo for completion and present it to the club at our May meeting at Harmon's.
2. These logos can be in color and computer formatted so the selected one can be sent on to the webmaster.
3. Attendees at the May meeting will select the logo.
4. The winner will receive next year's club membership as well as one of the \$15 Craft Supply Certificates when they arrive.

I'm sure we have artists with hidden talents. Let's see what we come up with.

Dennis Holt

## From the Editor

I would like to publish short biographies of all club members who are willing to, if you pardon the expression, expose themselves. This would help the members get to know each other and be more than a face in the room at a meeting. A half page or so would probably work well, but this would be up to the member writing the biography. The biography could contain a brief description of where you are from, your education or training, occupation, hobbies, and in particular, what you like to turn.

Just think about what you would like to know about any of our presenters, and then use that as a guide as to what you think we might like to know about you. Try to keep your biography interesting with out divulging your darkest secretes. The above is not meant as an outline, but as a provoker of ideas. If I publish one biography per newsletter, eventually even the most timid of us may decide to participate in this voluntary endeavor.

So think about it. Maybe one of the officers or presenters will volunteer to kick off the disclosure (or is it exposure) process with a first biography for next month's newsletter. On the other hand, if you think that this is a dumb idea, please let me know.

Irv Miller

### Rochester Woodcarvers

Meetings: 9am - 11am on the 3rd Saturday of each month (Sept - April)  
 Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9th Street and 7th Avenue SE, Rochester, MN  
 Spring Picnic: May 20 at Oxbow County Park, 11am - 1:00pm, Potluck  
 lunch at noon

## ZVW Meetings

January 26: Mel Turcanik on Pricing. Meet at the Rochester Covenant Church,

February 23: Harmon Pierce on Sharpening and Torn Grain. Meet at Harmon's shop.

**March 30, 6:30 to 8:30 PM:**  
**Dave Dunn on Bottle Stoppers. Meet at Harmon's shop.**

April 27, 6:30 to 8:30 PM: Jim Garrett on Segmented Bowls. I think Jim will show us how he puts a segmented layer on what might be just an ordinary bowl to give it some real class. Meet at Lyle's Studio.

May 20, 9 AM to 2PM: Harmon Pierce, with the help of Mel Turcanik and others, will conduct a Saturday session on green bowl turning. No Thursday meeting in May. Meet at Harmon's shop

June

July

August

ZVW to Display at  
 Rochester Woodcarvers  
 30th Annual Show

4H Building Olmsted County  
 Fairgrounds, Rochester  
 1508 Aune Drive, SE  
 Saturday, March 25  
 10:00 - 4:00  
 Sunday, March 26  
 10:00 - 4:00  
 Free Admission

## Here's What Happened at the February 23rd Meeting

The meeting of February 23 was held at Harmon's Shop. There was a brief discussion on the progress of the newsletter and the web site. Harmon brought up the idea that ZVW needs a logo. Lyle suggested that we hold a logo design contest for members. So, members, get ready to submit your designs.

We accepted the invitation from the Rochester Woodcarvers to display our turnings at their show. See the sidebar on page 1 for the place and time. Dave Dunn volunteered to anchor the show. I think that this is an excellent opportunity to get some show experience for those members who may have thought of some day putting together a show of our own. Some of us may not be interested in participating in a show, and that is just fine. Others may relish the opportunity. We are a small club and it could take several years and several more members before we might want to try to start our own show. It took the Rochester Woodcarvers a while to get started, and that was back in the days when the Apache Mall offered free space for such events. By the time Apache Mall stopped providing the free space, the Rochester Woodcarvers had grown to a size that permitted them to take the plunge and rent the 4-H building. The show has been a success there and, because of the energy of their members, has not been a financial burden on their club. It is their social highlight of the year.

ZVW plans to man at least one table displaying club member's woodturnings. We encourage all members to submit turnings for display. Turnings for the show can be dropped off at Dave's place, 2312 Elton Hills Drive, 282-2157, or you can bring them to the 4-H building on Saturday morning before the start of the show at 10 am.

There is no charge for our participation. However, our club was asked to donate at least one turning per ZVW table for the Woodcarver's raffle table. The woodcarver members donate carvings for this table to help pay the expenses of renting the 4-H building and advertising the show. If you have a turning you can donate, please drop it off at Dave's. It does not have to be a work of art. For many years, this show was an exhibition-only show. Recently the show has been opened to selling. This means that if any woodturners want to try to sell their works, they are welcome to try. If you plan to sell, though, you must be there to do your selling.

We could still use a bit more help in manning the table. Please call or email Dave if you want to participate. It would be nice, but not necessary, to have a pair in each time slot. If you plan on attending the show anyway, you might want to allocate a bit of time to spend at our table keeping company with the person who has signed up. Those manning the table during the noon hours are welcome to join the woodcarvers in pot luck lunch if they wish to bring something to eat. Here is the current signup:

Saturday	8:00-10:00	Dave Dunn and Ted Adams (to set up)
	10:00-1:00	Brian Goodmanson
	1:00-4:00	Jim Liberko
Sunday	10:00-1:00	Jim Garrett
	1:00-5:00	Irv Miller (to tear down)

Aside from the woodturning opportunity, I encourage you all to attend the

## Please Bring Spare Wood for Our Raffles

If you have any wood that you can contribute, and it can be almost anything that is turnable, bring it along and throw it onto the prize pile. The prize pile will be different at each meeting. If there aren't enough contributions, we will hold off until the next meeting.

Tickets will be sold at the beginning of the meeting for one dollar each.

The drawing will be held, and when your name is called, you get your pick from the prize pile. We keep drawing names until the wood is gone.

As it usually works out, just about everyone who participates goes home with something interesting.

The money is used to purchase educational materials for our library.

## Welcome Jarle

Jarle Norstad joined the club on February 23. Jarle attended the January meeting and apparently was impressed enough with Mel's presentation to return to the February meeting all the way from Cannon Falls to watch Harmon's demonstration and join the club.



show. The Rochester Woodcarvers have some expert and famous carvers.

**M**embers commented on the quality of our turnings and the other entries, both regional and professional, at the Rochester Art Center, and encouraged members who have not yet done so, to view the exhibition before it closes on March 26. On Thursdays, admission is free.

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### Here's What Happened Since the February 23rd Meeting

Our web site is improving. Club members can now have their own albums in our ZVW Members Gallery. Those who wish can add pictures, title them, and add comments. If you wish to have your own album, contact me, [ilmiller@kmwb.net](mailto:ilmiller@kmwb.net), by email and I will set up a user ID and password for you and send you a brief description on how to proceed. If you need an excuse to get yourself a digital camera, this may it.

### Show and Tell on February 23rd



Lyle tells us about the bowl he is holding in his right hand. It is layered with three wood species - - - a very nice touch. In his right hand are two ornaments, one with a very delicate finial.



Here is a mahogany platter that Lyle made for his wife Donna's lefsa. Hey, Lyle, click on the link below for a recipe to fill that platter. I haven't tried the recipe, so be careful. Maybe you will post Donna's recipe in the next newsletter

#### A platter-filling recipe for Norwegian potato lefsa

<http://holiday.allrecipes.com/az/NorwegianPotatoLefsa.asp>

Lyle and Donna Solem are spending March in Bellavista Arkansas, where Lyle visits with the Stateline Woodturners, a club in the northwestern corner of Arkansas that also covers the adjacent corners of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Perhaps Lyle will bring back some interesting techniques to demonstrate to us.

<http://www.statelinewoodturners.org/>

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### Other Links

Our friends, the Rochester Woodcarvers, have posted a notice of the Rochester Art Center's Contemporary American Woodcarving Show on their website Home Page:

<http://webpages.charter.net/rochcarve/>

## Handling Wild Grain



At the February 23 meeting, Harmon Pierce gave a presentation on sharpening and torn grain. First of all, for a difficult grain, sharp is all important. Harmon demonstrated the difference in spindle gauges and bowl gouges by using wooden models. The pointed or fingernail shape of a bowl gouge must be properly maintained with continued sharpening. Although some turners have the knack of doing a good job free hand, Harmon talked about the Wolverine sharpening jig and then showed us a jig that he had made with a block, a rod, and a metal stand, shown in the picture below



Next, with sharp tools, Harmon proceeded to go to work on a band sawed bowl blank of what seemed to be freshly cut red elm that he had just obtained from a neighbor's wood pile. After peeling off a bit of the blank with a gouge, he invited us to approach the lathe and observe the intertwined grain that is typical of elm.

A gouge can be used as a scraper, as shown in the picture to the right, and as a scraper, can be easier to control. But this is an especially bad technique on wild grain, imparting a fuzzy wuzzy texture to the surface.

Harmon showed us his approach to obtain a smooth surface using shearing cuts with his bowl gauge.

As the demonstration proceed, Harmon answered questions on wet vs. dry bowl turning, air vs. microwave drying, and finishing wet vs. dry wood.

Finally, with a sharp gouge and the proper attack, Harmon showed us how he could make ribbons of elm fly off the inside of the blank, making very short work of hollowing it out in spite of its wild grain.

Thank you, Harmon, for sharing your knowledge with us.

### Related Resources

Starting on page 12 of the AAW's Spring 2006 Issue of the American Woodturner Nick Cook's article on "Twenty Ways not to turn a bowl" complements some of the things that Harmon showed us.

I'm not saying that Harmon does things in a way that should not be done, but that Nick Cook's article discusses wrong techniques and then describes the correct ones, as Harmon has.

After examining Harmon's homemade bowl gouge sharpening jig, shown on the facing page, I went

to the Oneway site to look at their Wolverine sharpening system. On Oneway's Multi-media Downloads page, <http://www.oneway.on.ca/multi-media.htm>, I discovered a set of videos that do an excellent job of demonstrating how to sharpen lathe tools with their equipment. The techniques shown can be adapted to homemade jigs, as Harmon has. This is not an endorsement of their equipment, just a pointer to a resource where we can get a very close-up view of an important processes that will get us correctly-pointed and side-ground edges on our bowl gouges. Some of the videos are as large as 40 MB, so, if you don't have high-speed internet, you may not want to download them. For those who do download them, I suggest saving the files to a folder where you can view them at you leisure, several times if necessary. For others, I have made the CD "Wolverine Grinding Jig & Accessories" for our library. Member can check out and, if they wish, copy this CD.



# ZVW Library Contents

Librarian: Jim Liberko

## DVDs

Title	Author	Subject
<b>Bandsaw Tuning</b>	Alex and Howard Snodgrass	Bandsaw guide
<b>Relief Carved Embellishments</b>	Tony Cortese	Wood carving projects
<b>The Son of Skew</b>	Alan Lacer	Projects for a skew

## CDs

Title	Author	Subject
<b>Wolverine Grinding Jig &amp; Accessories</b>	Oneway	Sharpening woodturning gouges

## Video Tapes

Title	Author	Subject
<b>An Introduction to Bowl Turning</b>	Rus Hurt	
<b>Skill Building Projects</b>	Mike St Leger	
<b>Turning Wood</b>	Richard Raffan	
<b>Turning Projects</b>	Richard Raffan	
<b>Turning Projects From Scrap</b>	Robert Rosan	
<b>1999 AAW National Symposium Techniques, V 1</b>	Luke Mann Hans Finsterwalder Bob Flexner Simon Levy Jacques Vesery	Bowl Turning Boxes Lace Top Boxes Finishing Oils and Waxes Hand/Eye Design Surface design
<b>1999 AAW National Symposium Techniques, V 2</b>	Chris Stoff Yoshinobu Kakizawa Angus Hoban Frank Sudol	Inlaid Box Oriental Turning Great Highland Bagpipe Boring Bars
<b>2000 AAW National Symposium Techniques, V 1</b>	David Ellsworth Tom Crabb Betty Scarpino Hurt Johannson Allain Mailland	Mini Hollow Forms Turning On Bias Surface Treatments Bowls in End and Cross Grain Transparent Lampshade
<b>2000 AAW National Symposium Techniques, V 2</b>	Christian Burchard Bill Johnston Behn Pho Irene Gaffert John Jordan	Turning Green Madron Basic Hollow Turning Pricing Thin-Walled Vessels Leaf Metal as Decoration Person Journey/Texturing
<b>2001 AAW National Symposium Techniques, V 1</b>		
<b>2001 AAW National Symposium Techniques, V 2</b>	Soren Berger Jean Francois Escoulen Brian Simmons Hans Weissflog Mike Mahoney	Tool Handling Trembleur How to Turn a Sphere Bos with Loose Rings Nesting Bowls

## Books

Title	Author	Subject
<b>Artistic Woodturning</b>	Dale Nish	Woodturning
<b>Creative Woodturning</b>	Dale Nish	Basic woodturning
<b>The Craftsman Wood Turner</b>	Peter Child	Principles and practical examples
<b>Collectors Choice</b>	Sofa - Chicago	Portraying art
<b>Modern Wood Turning</b>	Gordon Stokes	Basic turning
<b>Nature Takes a Turn</b>	AAW	Woodturnings inspired by the natural world
<b>The Practical Wood Turner</b>	F. Pain	Basic turning
<b>Turning Green Wood</b>	Michael O'Donnell	Turning green wood
<b>Techniques and Projects I</b>	AAW	Selected items
<b>Techniques and Projects II</b>	AAW	Selected items
<b>Wood Turning</b>	Stephen Hogbin	The purpose of the object
<b>Woodturning Projects</b>	Mark Baker	A workshop guide to shapes

## Other Publications

Title	Date
<b>The Journal of the American Association of Wood Turners</b>	Spring 2001
<b>The Journal of the American Association of Wood Turners</b>	Summer 2001
<b>The Journal of the American Association of Wood Turners</b>	Fall 2001
<b>The Journal of the American Association of Wood Turners</b>	Spring 2002
<b>The Journal of the American Association of Wood Turners</b>	Spring 2005
<b>The Journal of the American Association of Wood Turners</b>	Summer 2005

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**The Zumbro Valley Woodturners, established in 2001, is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Its mission is to provide a means for woodturners to get together, share ideas and techniques, and educate each other and the public about the wonder and complexity of woodturning.**

ZVW Website <http://www.zvwoodturners.org/>

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Mail hyperlinks with a dot in the text preceding the @ sign are not rendered correctly by the Adobe Reader, so I have disabled the hyperlinks for the addresses of Jim G and Todd. Irv.

**Questions? Comments? News? Email them to Irv, your editor, [ilmiller@kmwb.net](mailto:ilmiller@kmwb.net)**